

Fosha Family- Drowsy Water Ranch Inc.

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April 2, 2017

BLM State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Attn: **June 2017 Lease Sale**

This letter is in response to the Oil and Gas potential lease sale advertised for May 2017. The scope of the land we are commenting on is located in Grand County. Specifically we are commenting on parcels 7822, 7823, 7824, 7825, 7826, 7835 which are located 6 miles west of the town of Granby. These are our final comments for the protest period and in response to the EA and FONSI documents.

The parcels listed above include portions of our private land and adjoining BLM lands. A large portion of our business operates utilizing a Special Recreation Permit on the adjoining public BLM lands. For the previous 40 years, our family has owned and operated a guest ranch that has been operating in the same locations since the 1920's. Our business consists of week long stays where horse back riding and hiking in the backcountry (most of which is located on the BLM) is the primary activity. Our Special Recreation Permit user days average 2300 days each summer. Our business is designed to provide folks with an heritage outdoor experience free of motorized vehicles in the Colorado High County. Oil and Gas drilling in our area would greatly affect our ability to provide a western outdoor experience for our customers seeking solitude in the mountains. The recently adopted BLM resource management plan also listed the area as non-motorized and is a major area utilized not only by businesses similar to ours but public hikers and horseback users daily.

The recent EA also mentions the following- accessing the parcels listed above would be unfeasible in many areas and would have major environmental impacts on the land. The surrounding lands including our private lands are very steep with many slopes in the 40-50 degrees range. Furthermore, our private land which sits in the valley floor is only 50-100 yards wide in most areas and would not be feasible to build a road for equipment and access.

The parcels listed above include grazing permits which are utilized each summer. The parcels 7822, 7823, 7824, 7825, 7826 and 7835 are the major winter habitats for deer

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1000 W. MAIN ST.
GRANBY, CO 80446

and elk that summer in the surrounding BLM, US Forest Service and Private lands. Close to 400 elk and 300 deer can be spotted most winter days in the parcels listed above.

Another major consideration that was also mentioned in the EA study was the hydrology in the areas. All of the areas as mentioned above have very steep slopes that drain into two creeks that directly feed a Gold Medal section of the Colorado River and the small creek that runs through our ranch, Drowsy Water Creek. Our ranch water source, a natural deep ground water spring that percolates under a rock formation, is utilized by 90 people daily for drinking and domestic uses could be directly impacted from drilling in the area. The side drainages including the Drowsy Water Ranch Valley are also within the water collection area (within 4 miles) for the town of Hot Sulphur Springs domestic drinking water inlet within the Colorado River.

Also mentioned in the EA, the visual impact of oil wells in the parcels 7822, 7823, 7824, 7825, 7826 and 7835 could be directly viewed from areas within Rocky Mountain National Park, the town the Granby, Colorado's Scenic Byway, Winter Park Ski Area, Granby Ranch Ski Area and Indian's Peak Wilderness Areas.

Our family owns land in both Jackson County, Colorado and Adams County, Colorado where we have active oil and gas leases and are in support of the efforts in those areas and millions of other acres in the United States that are not the picturesque Rocky Mountains. It would be a shame to see Grand County developed into an area similar to Parachute or Rifle where drill rigs and oil service traffic have changed the landscape forever.

In conclusion, there are certain areas where oil and gas production on public and private lands are a great resource but in the vicinity to Granby where tourism is the driving factor, based around the wide outdoors, it could cause irreversible alterations to the land. The area is an important resource for wildlife, the public and private citizens.

Please feel free to contact us for additional information or any questions.

Sincerely,

The Fosha Family, Drowsy Water Ranch Inc.

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